

continue the service by hiring its own transponders. Two transponders were hired on PAS-4 and PAS-1 in August, 1995 for transmitting International Channel in South-Asia, Middle-East, parts of Europe, North Africa, North America and Canada. The transmission hrs. have now been extended to about 18 hrs. i.e. from 6.30 A.M. to 24.00 hrs. It will take some time to gauge the impact of this new channel.

(c) There are no financial implications presently as far as software is concerned because old and current software is being utilised. However, Doordarshan-India (external service) has been operational on transponders leased on PAS-4/PAS-1 since September 1995. The lease charges payable to PANAMSAT are US \$ 3 million per annum for initial 36 months and there after US \$ 4.875 million per annum upto 15 years.

(d) Suitable programmes to present the country and to counter the anti-India propaganda by presenting a factual picture of happening and developments in the country and abroad backed by wholesome entertainment and infotainment programmes are telecast on this channel in addition to the other programmes.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g). Do not arise.

Distribution of CR Coils/Sheets

3096. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether bookings of CR coils/sheets in bulk quantities against the year 1995 (1.1.95 to 31.12.95) were made arbitrarily and selectively basis in favour of two-three firms only much after the closure of general bookings by the Branch Sales Office, SAIL, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details and justification thereof;

(c) whether all the other firms/customers, except the above two-three firms, attached to the BSO, SAIL, New Delhi were denied the bookings of CR coils/sheets against the above period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the High Court, Delhi had also given a judgement on July 29, 1991 regarding fair distribution of steel materials to customers by SAIL;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps to initiate action against the guilty officers by BSO, SAIL, New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Post of Correspondent Reporter, Rajkot

3097. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether one post of Correspondent/Reporter has been abolished from All India Radio, Rajkot and posted to Kutch where there is already one post of the same;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether representation have been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. One post of Correspondent at AIR, Rajkot has been abolished 10% economy cut in March, 1995 and the incumbent rendered surplus was posted to Kutch (Bhuj), where a vacancy in the same grade existed.

(c) to (e). Yes, representations were received from MPs for shifting of the post of News Reporter, AIR, Bhuj to AIR, Rajkot. Since AIR, Bhuj has a full fledged Regional News Unit (RNU), which covers as well as prepares news bulletins and news based programmes and Rajkot does not have a RNU, the suggestion was not found feasible.

[Translation]

Magnesite in Rajasthan

3098. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent proposals to the Union Government for conducting survey for extraction of Magnesite at Village Prasad, Tehsil Saradha district, Udaipur (Rajasthan);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether this metal is abundantly present in this area;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for exploration of this metal in the State;

(e) the benefit likely to be accrued to the Government from the said mine; and

(f) the number of persons belonging to the tribal area likely to get employment, therein?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) 1.66 million tonnes of magnesite has been identified in Village Parsad by the State Government of Rajasthan through survey and prospecting.

(d) Magnesite always remained unreserved group of minerals and anybody can make use of the mineral for establishing industry.

(e) and (f). Benefits likely to be accrued and employment potential depends on the economic viability of the deposit and extent of exploitation.

Delhi Flying Club Closed

3099. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SHIGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Flying Club Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi has been lying closed since 1982;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken so far to reopen it;

(c) whether the Pilot training for CPL, PPL and non-professional trainees has also been discontinued;

(d) whether the objective of Safdarjung Airport was to provide training to Pilots and to handle movement of VIPs;

(e) if so, whether these objectives have been fulfilled; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The objectives of Safdarjung Airport are mainly to cater to the flight operations of Delhi Flying Club, impart training to pilots and handle occasional VIP movements.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Bauxite based Aluminium Industry in Bihar

3100. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether heavy deposits of Bauxite have been located in Palamu and Chatara districts of Southern Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set-up bauxite based aluminium industry there;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Geological Survey of India is likely to conduct a survey to ensure the heavy deposits of bauxite in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The district-wise recoverable reserves of Bauxite in Bihar is given below :-

District	(Unit : 000 Tonnes)
Monghyr	813.00
Palamau	3323.20
Rohtas	1300.00
Gumla	37132.50
Lohardaga	12120.50
Dumka	6415.00
Total	61104.20

(b) and (c). The Alumina Refinery of Indian Aluminium Company Limited is already located at Muri in the State. Any new capacities can be created on establishment of additional reserves in the State to justify setting up of such a plant.

(d) and (e). Government have been conducting surveys of mineral reserves in Bihar on continuing basis. Geological Survey of India has carried out a Targe number of investigations for different minerals in the state which includes Bauxite.

[English]

Expansion of Bauxite Mines and Aluminium Refineries of NALCO

3101. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the bauxite mines and aluminium refinery of NALCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the investment made therefor;

(c) whether the Government have already approved the expansion of Alumina/Aluminium project at Damanjodi, Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the expansion programme is expected to be computed?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (e). The proposal of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) to expand the capacity of Bauxite